

“COMMUNITY” BOARD GAME

**986. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Local Government and Regional Development:**

- (1) Is the minister aware of a board game titled “CommUnity”, which has been developed and is being marketed by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development?
- (2) What is the purpose of the game?
- (3) Would the minister recommend it to Western Australian families as a Christmas present?
- (4) What other retail products is the department developing and promoting?

**Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(4) I am aware of the board game titled “CommUnity”. It is an initiative taken by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development. The aim of the game is to increase the awareness of children in grades 4 to 7 of the importance of community, particularly the importance of local government to a community. The game is based on a fairly simple principle; it is not unlike Monopoly in its structure. At the first stage players become citizens. If they are good citizens as they work around the board, they can take up a position as a councillor. As councillors they have to fulfil certain tasks. Obviously, good councillors have certain responsibilities, as do good citizens. Players reaching the next level can become a mayor. Becoming a mayor is a very important function and players perform those functions. The Department of Local Government and Regional Development has worked in consultation with the Department of Education and Training in developing the game to ensure that it is consistent with the requirements of the curricula for that age group. It has fairly significant educational outcomes. I am sure it will be of benefit in helping children understand the role of local government, good citizenship, the role of councillors and the functions of mayors. I am often surprised by the lack of understanding in the community of the three levels of government. I am amazed sometimes when I go to functions and people ask where I am in the State Government, and whether I am in the upper House or the lower House. I say that I am a member of the Legislative Council, and they ask what the Legislative Council is, and what is the difference from the Legislative Assembly. I am absolutely amazed by the lack of understanding by the public of the workings of local, state and federal Governments. I hope children will be responsive to this board game. It is a very good educational tool.